

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing risk of insuring a healthcare patient, the method comprising:

receiving demographic data on a patient and prescription data [on at least one] for each [pharmacy service] prescription [prescribed for] filled by the patient;

assigning the prescription data for [a unique drug class to] each [pharmacy service] prescription to at least one risk group based upon at least one medical condition typically treated by the prescription;

storing risk data for the patient, wherein the risk data includes the risk groups for all prescription data of the patient;

[using the unique drug classes for ordering the pharmacy services according to a predetermined hierarchy of classes;] and

calculating a risk score for the patient based upon the risk data and the demographic data of the patient [providing a risk score for the patient using the ordered pharmacy services].

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of assigning [a unique drug class] the prescription data to at least one risk group comprises using national drug codes to classify [assign] each [pharmacy service] prescription [to a unique class].

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [1] 2, wherein the step of assigning the prescription data to at least one risk group further comprises[ing] categorizing each [unique drug class] national drug code classification into one of a number of [initial] pharmacy risk groups.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [3] 1, further comprising defining additional member risk markers based on patient age and other characteristics known to indicate that the patient belongs to a high risk category and using the additional member risk markers to calculate

the patient's risk score.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [3] 1, further comprising providing a clinical and demographic risk profile for the patient based on the patient's age, gender and a mix of clinical and demographic risk profiles and using the patient's clinical and demographic risk profile to calculate the patient's risk score.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising providing multiple patient risk markers for patients with pharmacy services that indicate multiple medical conditions.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each risk group is assigned a numerical risk value based upon the patient's demographic data, and the patient's risk score [comprises] is the sum of the numerical risk values of the risk groups in the patient's risk data [each patient risk marker].

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the risk score is computed using pre-determined weights and a patient's patient risk marker profile.

9. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the pharmacy risk groups comprise patient risk markers.

10. (Currently Amended) An information processing system comprising computer-readable instructions for:

receiving demographic data on a patient and prescription data [on at least one] for each [pharmacy service] prescription prescribed for the patient;

assigning the prescription data for [a unique drug class to] each [pharmacy service] prescription to at least one risk group based upon at least one medical condition typically treated by the prescription;

storing risk data for the patient, wherein the risk data includes the risk groups for all prescription data of the patient;

[using the unique drug classes for ordering the pharmacy services according to a predetermined hierarchy of classes;] and

calculating a risk score for the patient based upon the risk data and the demographic data of the patient [providing a risk score for the patient using the ordered pharmacy services].